

## *Smoke-free Air Post-Law Public Opinion Survey – Fall 2010*

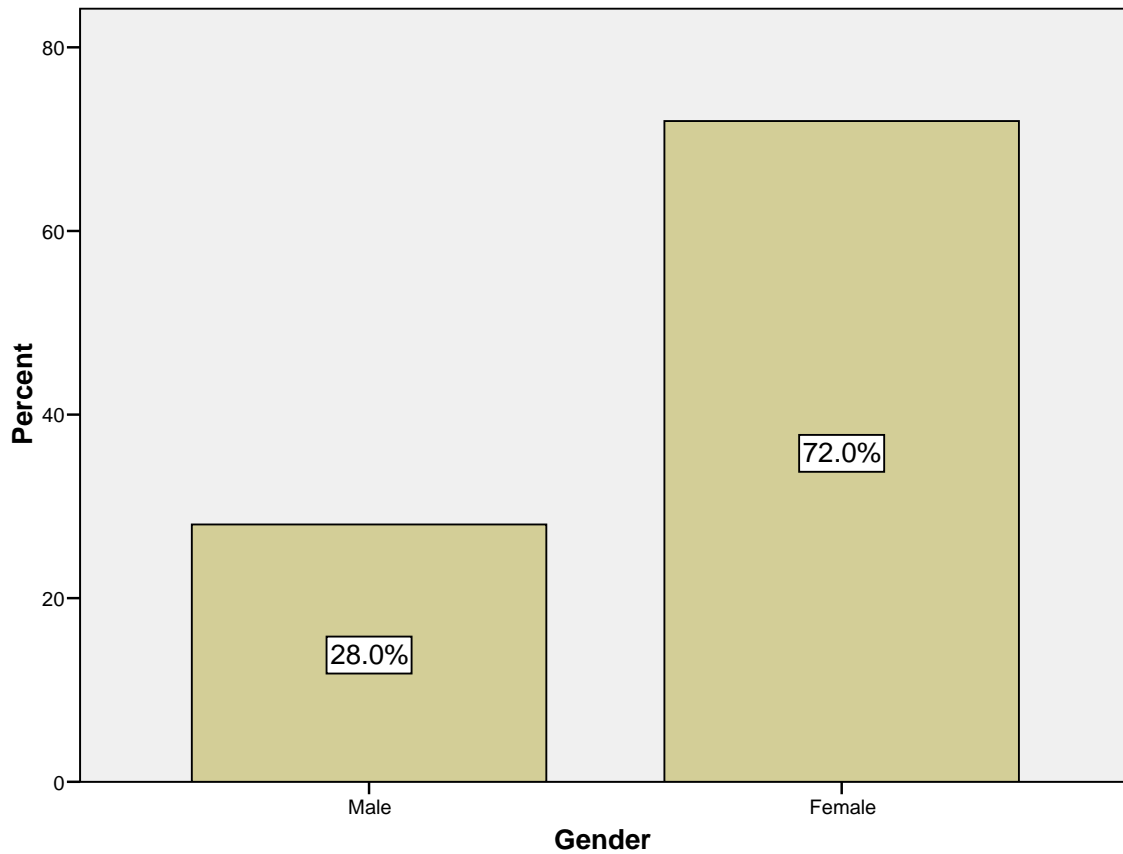
### *Summary of Results*

Seventy-six counties in Michigan participated in this post-law public opinion survey distributing the “Survey of Public Opinion and Level of Support of the Smoke-Free Air Law in Michigan” to clients receiving services at local health departments and other community agencies. The survey was developed by the Michigan Department of Community Health, Tobacco Section, and included nine questions assessing participant demographics, knowledge about secondhand smoke, knowledge of the state smoke-free air law, support of the law, and behavior change related to the law, specifically whether participants would eat out more often if smoking was prohibited in bars and restaurants. Surveys were distributed before the smoke-free law went into effect, between August 1<sup>st</sup> and September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010. A total of 6,962 participants completed the survey, and the survey findings revealed a continued high level of support among Michigan residents for the statewide smoke-free air law. The majority of participants that completed the survey were in favor (73.3%,  $N = 5,028$ ) of the smoke-free work site law, compared to 13.5% ( $N = 941$ ) that were not in favor.

#### *Gender*

Seventy-two percent ( $N = 4901$ ) of the participants were female, and 28.0% ( $N = 1909$ ) were male. See Figure 1 below. Data on gender was missing for the remaining participants ( $N = 147$ ).

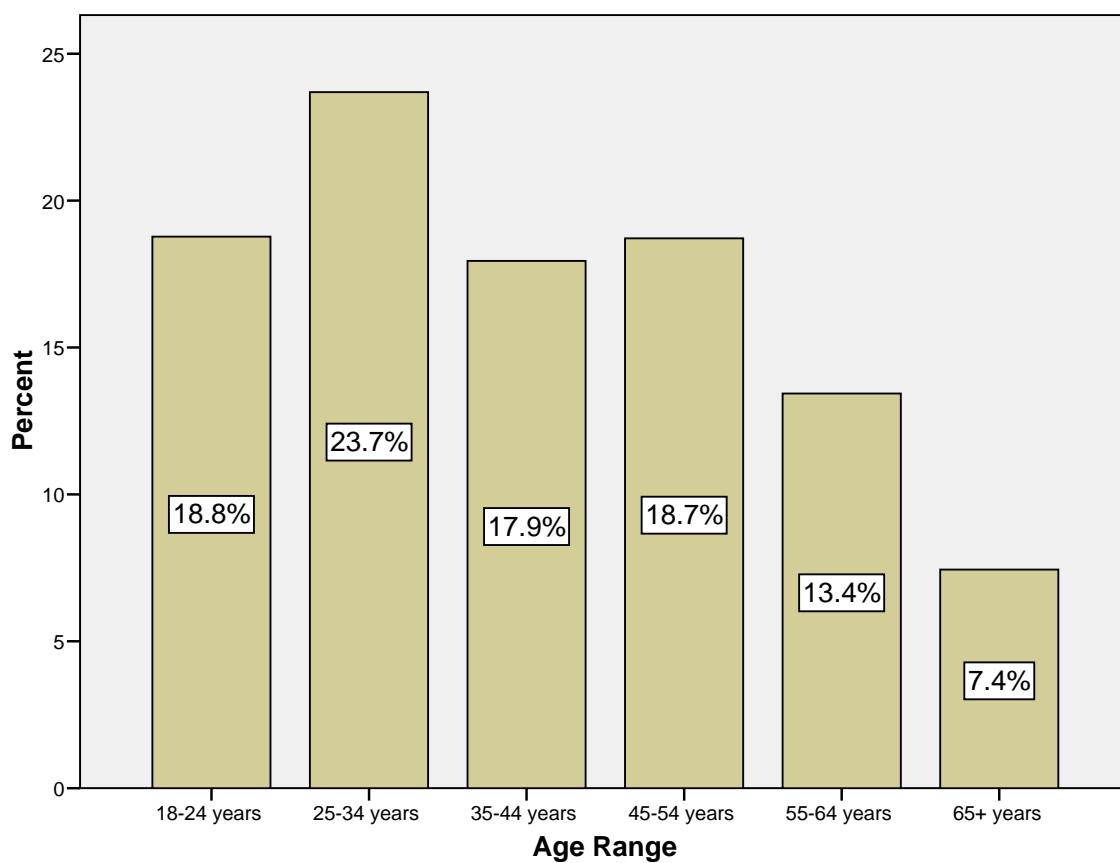
Figure 1. Gender



### *Age*

Seventy-nine percent of participants that completed the survey were between the ages of 18 and 54, and the age range with the largest number of participants was 25 to 34 (23.7%,  $N = 1,633$ ). See Figure 2 below.

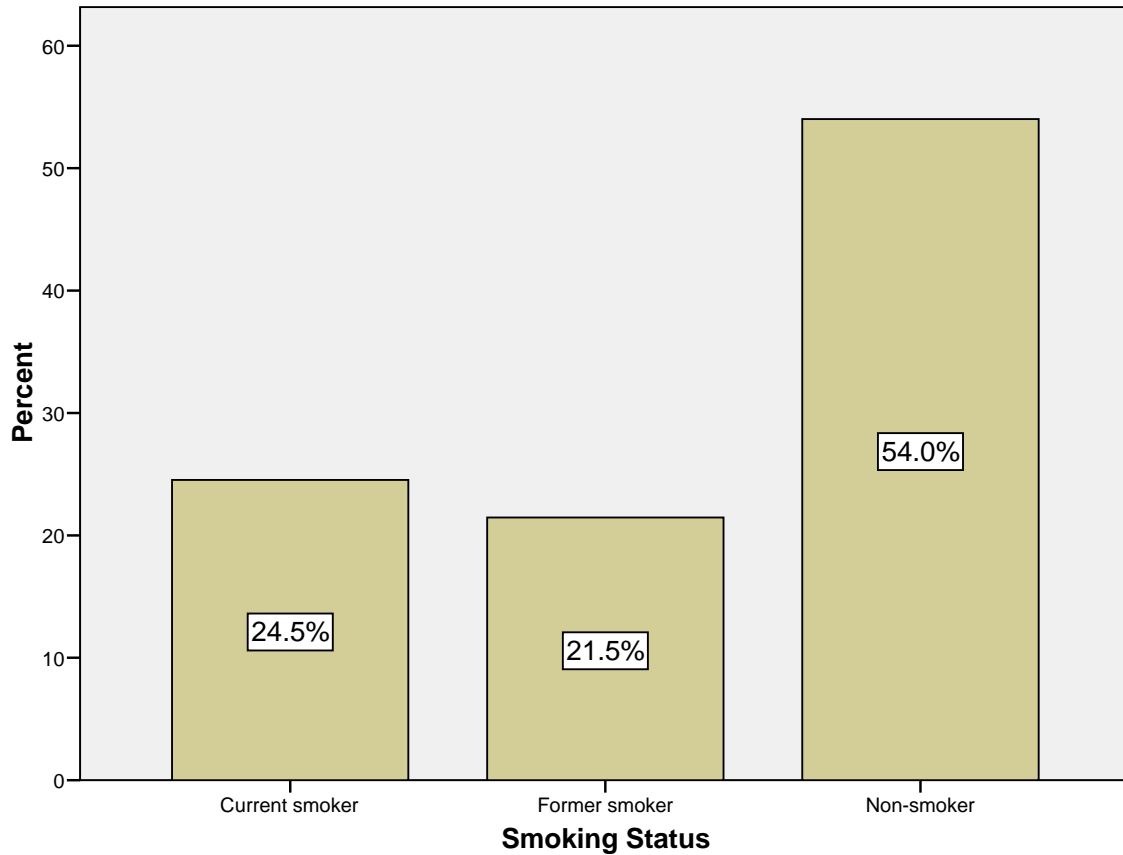
Figure 2. Age range of participants



### *Smoking Status*

The majority of participants were non-smokers (54.0%,  $N = 3,732$ ), and 21.5% ( $N = 1,483$ ) were former smokers and 24.5% ( $N = 1,695$ ) were smokers. See Figure 3 below.

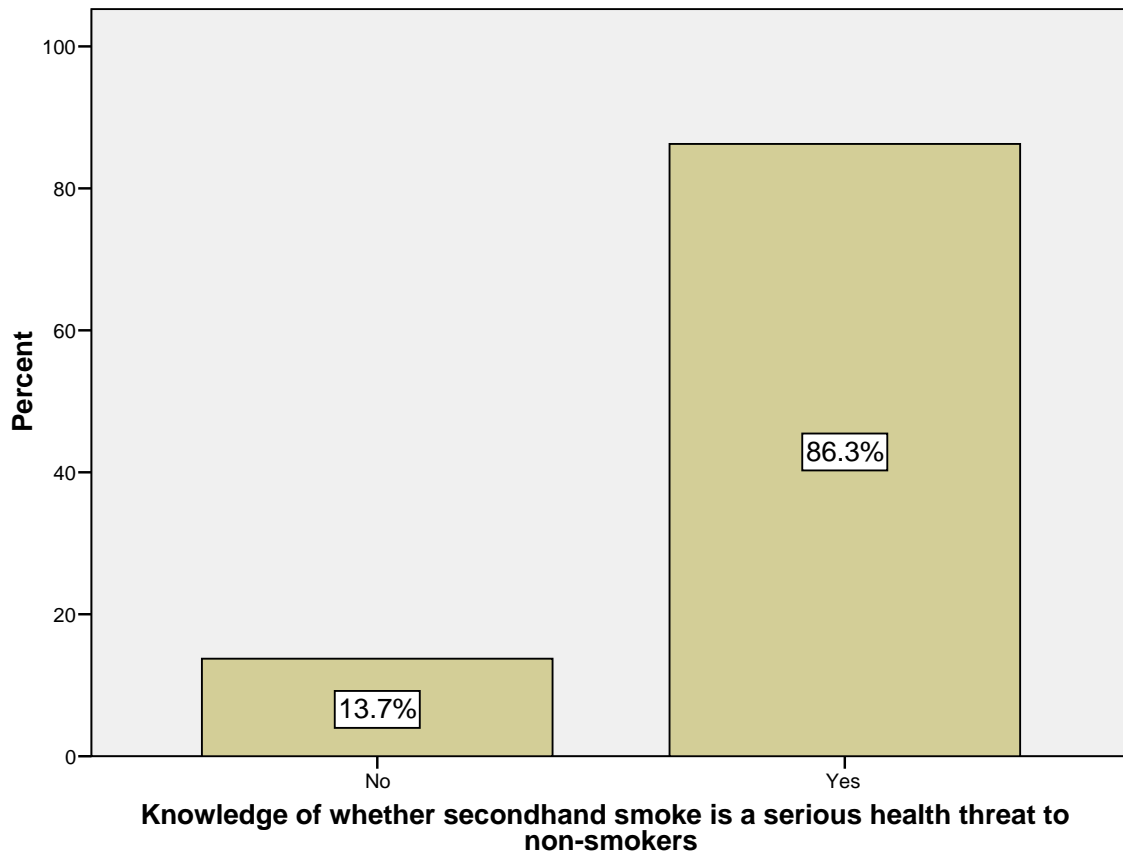
Figure 3. Smoking status



*Knowledge about the Health Effects of Secondhand Smoke*

The majority of participants (86.3%,  $N = 5,910$ ) thought that secondhand smoke (SHS) was a serious health threat to non-smokers, while 13.7% ( $N = 941$ ) of participants did not think it was a serious health threat. There was missing data for 104 participants, and these may have been additional participants that were not sure if SHS was a serious health threat so they did not respond to the question. See Figure 4 below.

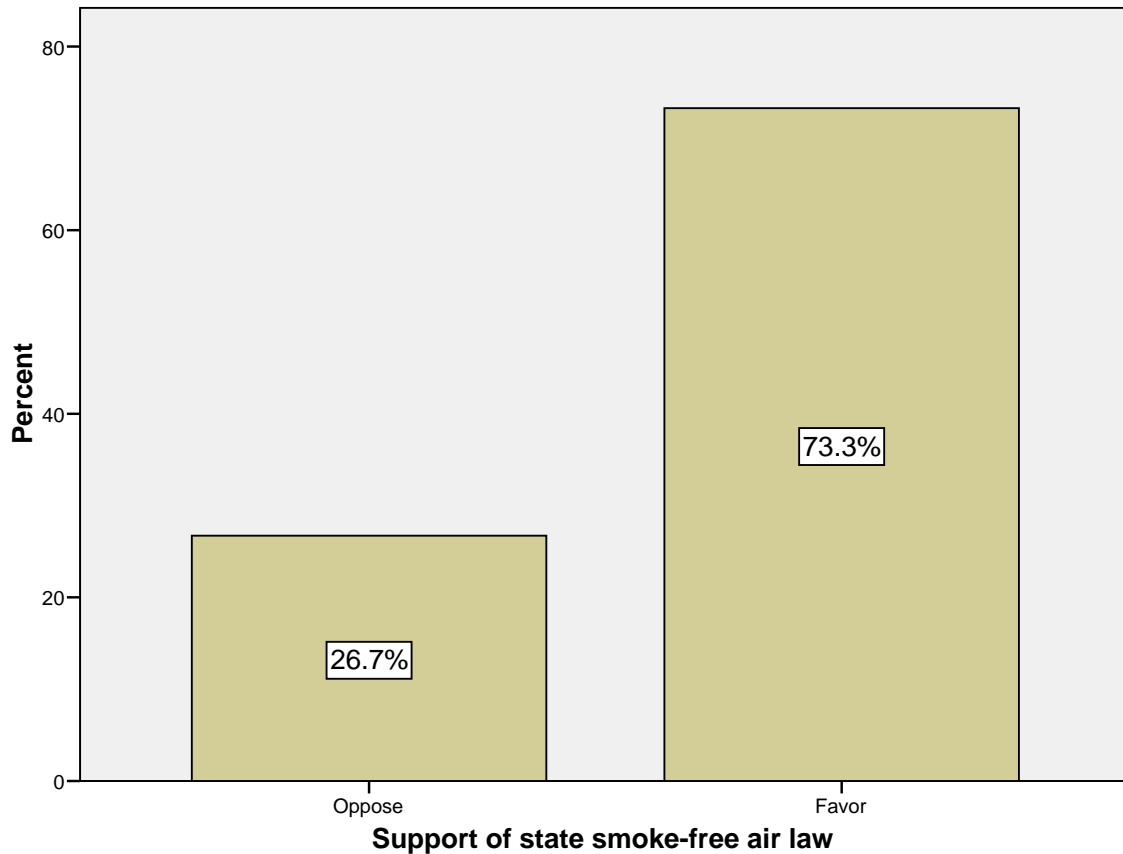
Figure 4. Knowledge of the Health Effects of SHS



*Support of the smoke-free air law*

The majority of participants that completed the survey were in favor (73.3%,  $N = 5,028$ ) of the smoke-free work site law, compared to 26.7% ( $N = 1833$ ) that were not in favor. See Figure 5 below.

Figure 5. Support of the smoke-free air law



*Change in Smoking Status Related to the Smoke-free Air Law*

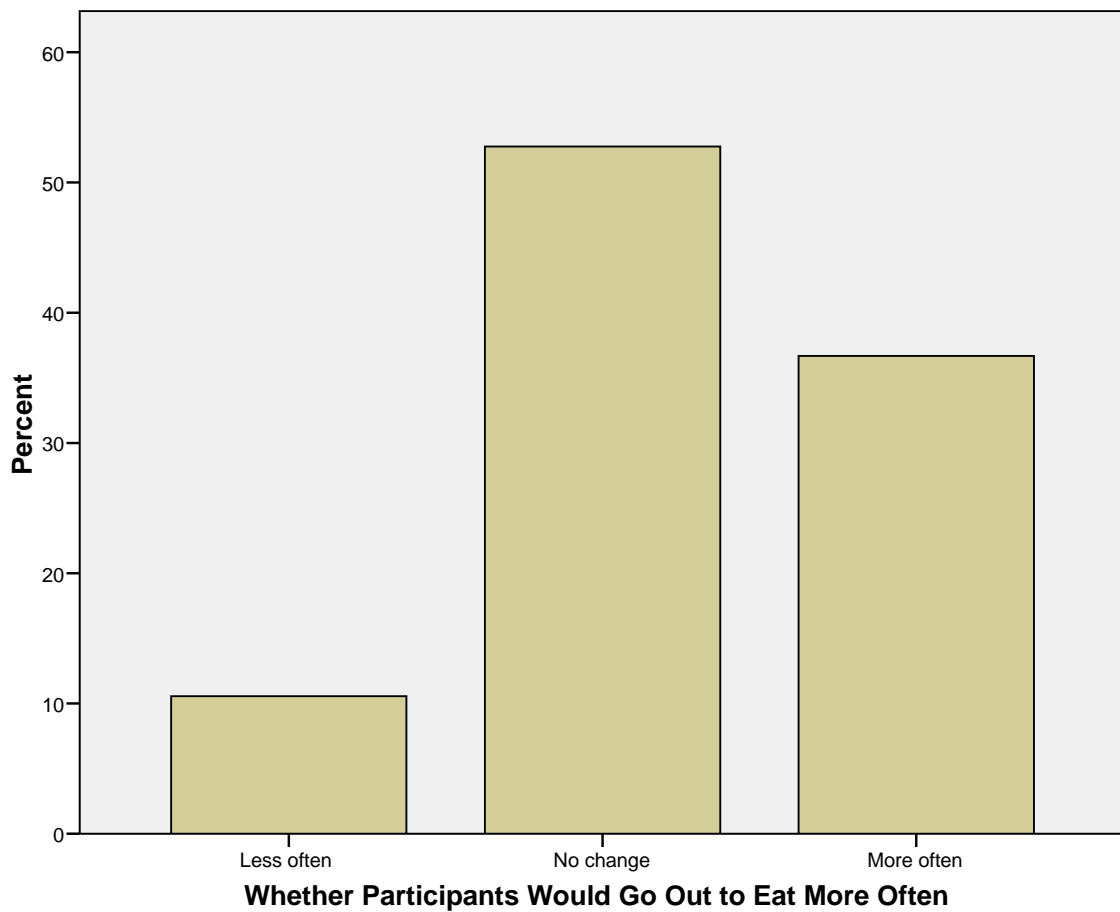
The majority of smokers (55.4%,  $N = 1,288$ ) reported that they either tried to quit or quit since the state smoke-free air law went into effect on May 1, 2010. The percentage of smokers that reported quitting smoking was 28.5% ( $N = 663$ ).

*Behavior Change Related to the Smoke-free Air Law*

The majority of participants (89.5%,  $n = 8,907$ ) reported either “No change” or “More often” when asked if they would go out to eat more often if smoking was prohibited in restaurants and bars compared to 10.6% ( $n = 1,052$ ) who reported that they would go out to eat “Less often.” See Figure 6 below. This finding demonstrates that restaurant and bar owners are not likely to lose business due to the implementation of

the statewide law, and that business may also increase. Some of the survey comments also revealed that participants who selected “No change” would not go out to eat more often, but would change where they went to eat as they would have more options. In addition, some participants provided comments that they would not go out to eat more often because of economic reasons.

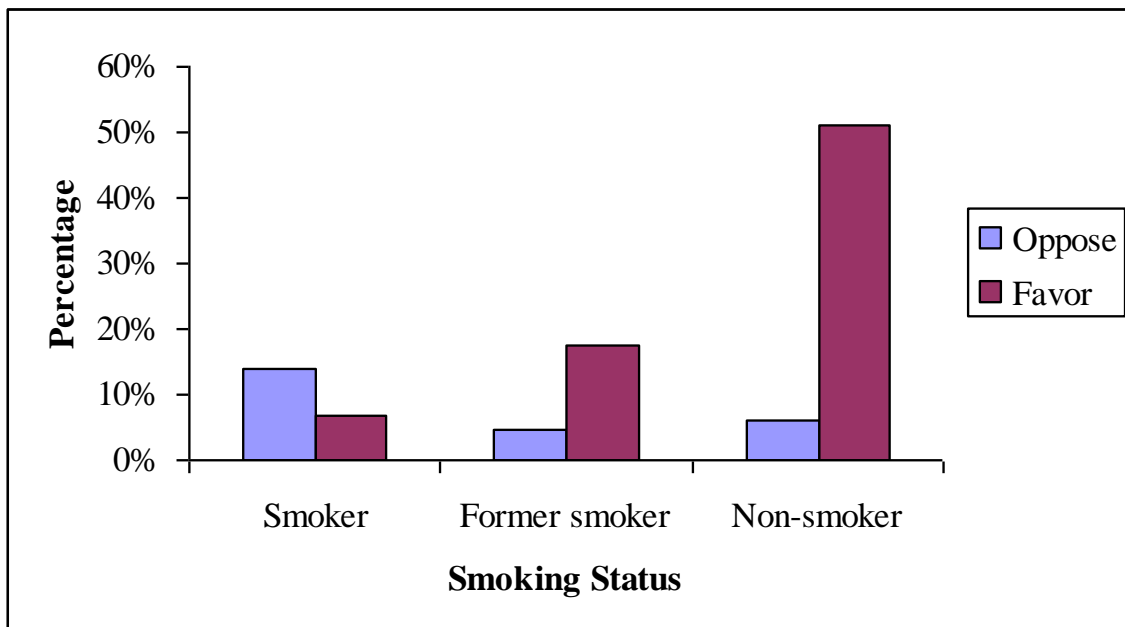
Figure 6. Whether Participants Would Go Out to Eat More Often if Smoking Was Prohibited in Bars and Restaurants



### *Relationship Between Smoking Status and Support of the Smoke-free Air Law*

Non-smokers were significantly more supportive of the smoke-free air law, as 51.1% of non-smokers ( $n = 5,164$ ), compared to 17.5% ( $n = 1,723$ ) of former smokers and 6.7% ( $n = 658$ ) of smokers were in favor of the law,  $\chi^2(2, N = 9822) = 2576.72$ ,  $p < .01$ ). Approximately six percent of non-smokers were opposed to the law, and the comments revealed that this was related to participants' attitudes and beliefs that although they did not smoke, the law would interfere with individual right's and that business owners should decide whether or not their establishments are smoke-free. See Figure 7 below.

Figure 7. Relationship between smoking status and support of state smoke-free air law

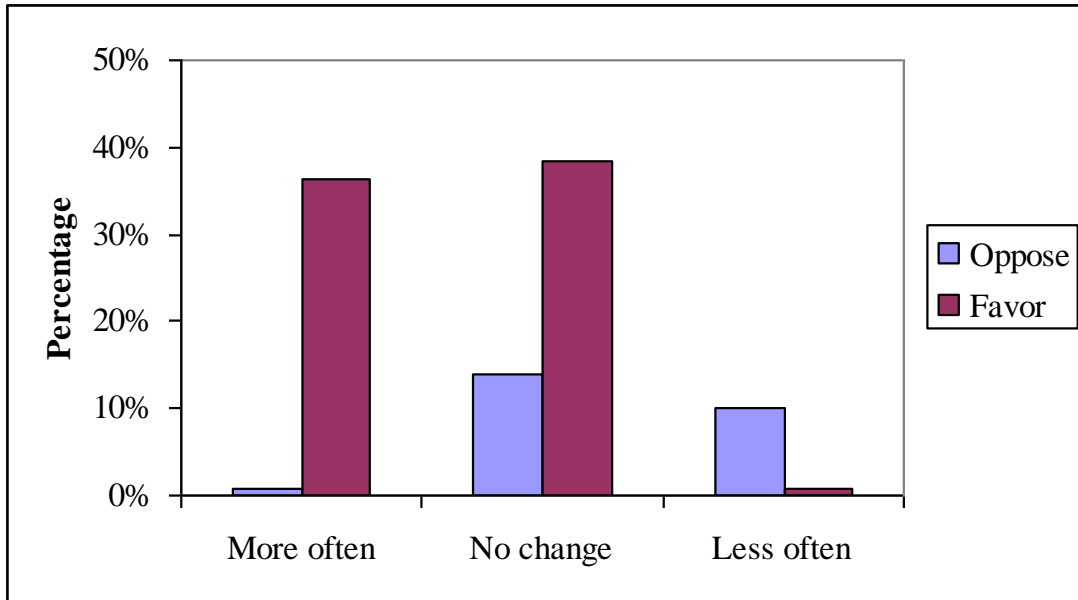




*Relationship between Support of State Smoke-free Air Law and Behavior*

Those participants in favor of the smoke-free air law were significantly more likely to report that they would eat out “More often” (36.3%,  $n = 3,563$ ) or “No change” (38.3%,  $n = 3,759$ ) compared to those that were not in favor of the smoke-free air law,  $\chi^2(2, N = 9810) = 3681.36, p < .01$ ). However, more participants that were opposed to the law reported “No change” (13.9%,  $n = 1,365$ ) in going out to eat if smoking was prohibited in restaurants and bars compared to those that reported “Less often” (10.0%,  $n = 979$ ). These findings may demonstrate that some citizens opposed to the smoke-free air law will not stop going out to eat at restaurants and bars if they are smoke-free. See Figure 8 below.

Figure 8. Relationship between support of smoke-free air law and whether or not participants would go out to eat more often if restaurants and bars were smoke-free



*Relationship between Smoking Status and Behavior Related to the Smoke-free Air Law*

Regardless of smoking status, the majority of participants (52.8%,  $n = 5242$ ) were more likely to report “No change” regarding going out to eat if smoking was prohibited in bars and restaurants. Out of all the participants, non-smokers (27.4%,  $n = 2719$ ) were significantly more likely to report that they would go out to eat “More often” compared to former smokers (7.9%,  $n = 786$ ) and current smokers (1.4%,  $n = 143$ ),  $\chi^2(4, N = 9935) = 2810.51, p < .01$ ). See Figure 9 below.

Figure 9. Relationship between smoking status and whether or not participants will go out to eat more if often if smoking is prohibited in bars and restaurants

